

## **VILLA LOUIS**

**Saint Feriole Island, Prairie du Chien**

Hercules Louis Dousman I, prominent fur agent for the American Fur Company, adviser to the government on matters ranging from Indian affairs to land surveys, owner of river steamboats and proponent of the railroads, left a fortune sufficiently large for his son, Hercules Louis Dousman II, to build this large Italianate villa, designed by Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix, in 1870. The house stands on a mound—believed to be a Hopewell site—which was also the location of two early forts, one of them the first Fort Crawford. A predecessor house that the first Hercules Dousman built was also on the site. Villa Louis is open to the public as a house museum.